

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 13, 1997

LB 216

at least looking like you're paying attention. This is an easy bill to do this on, because the issue is an important one and can stand and justify the discussion. Some of the others, it would be more difficult to make an outsider understand why so much time would be taken on it, but this one is easy. When we get to some of those other bills, like the claims bill, and I start making motions to strike claims, some people will like that because they think the Legislature spends too much anyway. But, see, that's how, Senator Hilgert, I will build my reputation as a slash and burn conservative, because I'm going to be against you liberal taxers and spenders. I'll bet Senator Witek will be voting against some of my motions to strike that money out of the claims bills and fritter away that money, the taxpayers' money. But I will try to do what pruning that I can. But here's where you would really turn the tables on me, if I would make a motion to strike one of those claims and you agreed to it, that would be a catastrophe. But I have confidence that there are too many responsible senators to allow that to happen. So Senator Wehrbein and I are going to continue our war of wills. That's what this is, it's a battle of wills. But Senator Wehrbein has much more at stake than I do. Senator Wehrbein is the one sitting up there on that Conestoga wagon with is Stetson hat sitting on his head, cocked rakishly to one side, and with the whip in his hand, trying to drive the oxen, who are pulling the cart which contains the budget. Now I'm just kind of watching that activity. I cannot stop his Conestoga wagon, but I might make the ruts just a little deeper in the path, I might drop a log or a tree across the path, and either he can jump down and move it, or guide his oxen around it. But in any case, it's going to take him longer than if he had a straight line. They say the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. But on the curve of the Earth they talk about something called the arch of the great circle, and it introduces other elements which I don't understand, but it prevents there from being an actual straight line. But at any rate, rather than say straight, say direct. He's not going to have a direct line across the prairie.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If I were in Senator Wehrbein's shoes, if I were wearing Senator Wehrbein's hat, I would be more than